

19,000 officers and 178,000 enlisted men. American industry had turned out 11,754 aircraft.

It took World War II to prove the importance of air power to the defense of our Nation. In 1920, the Army Reorganization Act made the Air Service a combatant arm of the Army. The Air Corps Act of 1926 adopted the name of the Army Air Corps. Two years after Hitler launched World War II by invading Poland, the War Department created the Army Air Forces as its aviation element. By the last year of the war, the quantity and quality of Army Air Forces aircraft and airman dominated the skies over both Germany and Japan, all but paralyzing their war economies.

Based on the Army Air Force's wartime achievements and future potential, the U.S. Air Force won its independence. The National Security Act of 1947 created the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of the armed services. This secured the Air Force's full partnership with the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps. The creation of the Air Force signaled America's commitment to the dominance of the skies. And I am proud to report that commitment is being honored today in skies all around the world.

From that first military flight in 1908, what has come from now a golden legacy is moving toward a boundless future. This future knows no limits, as it moves toward new horizons. As the 20th century has worn on, our military focus has increasingly shifted into a third dimension—the vertical. This is the realm of air and space forces. When we dominate the third dimension we control both the horizontal and vertical battlefield. In conflict, superiority is not enough: air and space dominance must be our objective. It is with these challenges in mind, that the Air Force commemorates its 50th anniversary looking firmly to the future while remembering the lessons and achievements of the past. In this spirit, we honor the sacrifices and contributions the brave men and women of the Air Force have made.

In commemoration of this anniversary, the Air Force has been busy indeed. The Air Force launched several events to celebrate its first 50 years on September 18, highlighted by the Air Forces Annual Convention in Washington. The U.S. Postal Service issued the first Air Force stamp. That same day, a wreath was placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. And the Air Force proudly dedicated its site of the Air Force Memorial at Arlington while the President led a cake cutting ceremony at the Pentagon. In communities all over this great Nation, local Air Force associations sponsored road races, participated in school festivals, and other community activities. I am proud to say that I and many of my fellow members of the Congress participated in the many events to help celebrate this momentous anniversary. It is my honor to further recognize the U.S. Air Force, and on behalf of the Congressional Air Power Caucus and the U.S. Congress, I wish the Air Force God's speed as it presses on toward its boundless future.

CONGRATULATING LT. GEN. RICHARD G. GRAVES (RETIRED) ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GENERAL DYNAMICS CORP.

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the second retirement of Lt. Gen. Richard G. Graves, a distinguished soldier who as a businessman continued to promote the interests of the Army and of the United States.

Lt. Gen. Graves is departing from General Dynamics Corp. where he has served as vice president of the General Dynamics Land Systems Division, first in Saudi Arabia and recently in Washington, DC. He will now return to his adopted home, the State of Texas.

While in Saudi Arabia, he was responsible for the fielding of over 300 United States made M1A2 tanks to the Royal Saudi Land Forces. Complex and difficult in itself, this accomplishment has had two major benefits to the United States of America.

First, these tanks and their Saudi crews now are part of the foundation of military strength that allows the Government of Saudi Arabia to stand against the possibility of renewed aggression in the Middle East. Second, the efficient and positive way in which this critical task was done strengthened the relationship of trust and confidence the United States has with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Gen. Graves was born and raised in Indiana. Following graduation from West Point in 1958, he established a reputation as a highly proficient and able armor officer, culminating in command of the U.S. Army's Contingency Corps, III U.S. Corp. at Fort. Hood, TX, from 1988 to 1991.

During his military career, he sought out difficult assignments here and abroad and executed them in an outstanding manner. He was the commander of an Armored Cavalry Squadron during the Vietnam war and earned the Silver Star and several other decorations for valor. During the latter days of the cold war, he served in armored units here and in Germany as a Brigade Commander, Corps Operations Officer, Division Chief of Staff, Corps Chief of Staff, Assistant Division Commander, and Division Commanding General. He also served on the Staffs of Forces Command and the Department of the Army. In these roles, he was one of the architects of the rebuilding of the American Army from the depths of the post-Vietnam weakness to the heights of the competence displayed in the Desert Storm victory.

Members, please join me in congratulating Lt. Gen. Richard G. Graves (retired). He has earned the praise and thanks of the American people for his many contributions as a soldier and patriot.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
BIBLE WEEK

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, the Laymen's National Bible Association has bestowed upon

me the honor of congressional cochair for National Bible Week. It is, therefore, with respect and pleasure that I announce November 23–30 as National Bible Week. I encourage my colleagues in the House and the Senate, as well as the American people to observe National Bible Week through the study of God's word.

The Bible has been a source of moral guidance throughout world history, but America's reliance upon the Bible has been particularly profound. The American public and the U.S. Government have long used Biblical principles to shepherd progress. For that reason, National Bible Week has several goals. It is an opportunity for individuals to expand their knowledge of the Bible, reaffirm commitment to its principles, and introduce its values into the lives of others. I also encourage my colleagues in Congress to recognize and explore Scripture's treasures upon which our great Nation depends. I urge everyone to use National Bible Week to understand God's message in Psalm 119:105. It says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." National Bible Week enables us the occasion to commit ourselves to Biblical guidance.

Americans have long had a commitment to the Bible. Indeed, the greatest success of many new world colonists was to break free of religious intolerance in England and create a community firmly established on an observance of Biblical principles. Perhaps no group better exemplified the Reformation in early America than the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Their hope of religious freedom led them to leave the hypocrisy of England in search of a closer connection to God's word. It was aboard the flagship *Arbella*, just before landing in Massachusetts Bay, that John Winthrop issued his sermon, "A Model of Christian Charity." In his sermon he said, "We must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill; the eyes of all people are upon us." His words explained the purpose of the Puritans, a people who would develop a close relationship with God's Word and lead by example.

Years later, the 13 colonies waged the Revolutionary War against the English to secure their religious freedoms. Their triumph was a cleansing of intolerance in the new frontier. After the war, revolutionary America set out to champion the values for which they fought into a national law. This challenge was met with the Constitution, a unique document heavily influenced by the laws of God in the Bible. James Madison spoke of the Bible's influence on the Constitution. He said, "the future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded."

Psalm 119:2 says, "Blessed are they who keep to His statutes and seek Him with all their heart." This verse is especially relevant for today's national leaders. My colleagues and I need to seek personal guidance from the Bible. As Noah Webster said, "The Bible must be considered as the great source of all truth by which men are to be guided in government. * * *" My hope for National Bible Week is that it will serve notice to our U.S. Congress, that we may begin to reacquire our actions, words, and politics with Biblical example to serve our citizens better.

All Americans should take notice that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (II Timothy 3:16)" Society puts